

Paul R. LePage

STATE OF MAINE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR 1 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

16 January 2013

The Honorable Joseph Biden The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20501

Dear Vice President Biden:

As you undertake your review of Federal firearms laws, I want to ensure that you fully understand the position of the State of Maine. The problem we are facing has little to do with firearm ownership and nearly everything to do with mental health issues. More laws will be ineffective when necessary services are not being provided.

In Maine, my most recent budget proposes to increase funding to provide services to mentally ill people. This includes \$6.7 million for adults with developmental disabilities that will reduce our waitlist by 85 individuals. We have also added another \$2 million for services under a consent decree dealing with mental health services throughout the State. I am confident these initiatives will mean much more to the individuals receiving these services than simply passing unnecessary gun laws. And I know that direct services will do much more to increase public safety than signing new bills into law.

Maine has a long history of responsible gun ownership — criminalizing these law-abiding citizens will only ensure that criminals are the ones with guns. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter directly, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage

Governor